

SMOKE SIGNALS

For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 31st Year

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Kenneth A. Ebner
822 Wauona Trail
Portage, WI 53901

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FCC has more questions for W5YI-VEC

The FCC has posed more questions to Fred Maia, W5YI, of the W5YI-Volunteer Examiner Coordinator as part of a continuing FCC audit of the VEC. The FCC gave Maia 60 days to reply to its latest inquiry.

The FCC told Maia May 11 that his April 12 reply to its earlier inquiry didn't go far enough. "Your response is inadequate and does not answer the concerns raised about the integrity of your testing program," FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said. The FCC has been looking into allegations that licenses and upgrades were sold by W5YI-VEC volunteer examiners and that examination irregularities occurred at W5YI-VEC sessions in Puerto Rico.

In its May 11 inquiry, the FCC said it wants to know if Maia's April 12 letter was his "final report" on his fact-finding trip to Puerto Rico that month and his investigation into licensing irregularities there. Among other things, Maia had told the FCC in his reply that he'd uncovered apparent irregularities regarding code tests at a March 18 test session in Salinas, Puerto Rico. He also reported that an applicant listed on the session roster subsequently said she had not taken any examinations at all.

The FCC questioned if Maia had contacted other applicants alleged to have been at the Salinas session and for whom paperwork was submitted, if he had met with the VEs involved in the session, and if he in-



tended to furnish additional session details and documents.

Citing a "lack of confidence" in the integrity of his Amateur Radio examination program, Maia in April discontinued the services of all Puerto Rico VEs but the Arecibo Observatory Amateur Radio Club. Maia told the FCC that the W5YI-VEC would put in place "special examination procedures" to ensure integrity. "All VEs would have to be reaccredited and new VE teams re-established," Maia told the Commission.

In the May 11 follow-up inquiry, Hollingsworth said the FCC wants to know if

Please turn to page 4

Complete Communications Capabilities: Milwaukee County ARES vehicle sets high standards



This is the new Milwaukee County ARES, Inc. communications van. It houses a lot of communications capability. Some - but not all - of the equipment on board is Amateur Radio, Emergency Government, fire, police, sheriff, airport operation, CB, Red Cross, and marine. The ham gear includes MARS capability, several computers which provide packet and

APRS, voice on VHF and UHF, both fast and slow scan TV, and much more. The vehicle has 17 antennas, including two for cell phone use. The van is still a "work in progress". Looking at what it has now, it's hard to imagine adding anything else! We'll keep you updated. And, look thru this issue for more photos.

Photos courtesy Bob Goldstein. K9KJT



Badger State Smoke Signals

Field Day 2000: June 24 and 25
See May QST for rules

FLIPPING THE PAGES

What's Happening: Edited by Ken Ebner, K9EN	2
Silent Key	4
The 2000 Great Circus train and W 9 G	5
Odds and Ends	5
The Computer Corner - Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR: No. 79 - Privacy and a Personal Firewall	6
From the Olde Goat	6
Wisconsin Valley Radio Association	7
Wisconsin Nets Association	7
Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club	7
Quarter Century Wireless Association/Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162	8
Red Cedar Repeater Association	8
Lakeshore Repeater Association	8
Racine Megacycle Club	8
Riley Hollingsworth: Is my face red?	8
ManCoRad Radio Club	9
Four pictures	9
The Wisconsin Packeteer	10
Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club	11



WHAT'S HAPPENING

✕ Swapfests and Other Social Events ✕ Club Meetings
✕ Amateur Radio Exam Schedules

Edited by Kenneth A. Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901 • kebner@palacenet.net

Swapfests and Other Social Events

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2000 W9EAI Hamfest. Eau Claire County exposition Center, Eau Claire, WI. Information: Jim Staatz, KG9RA, P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire WI 54702-1867 (715) 838-9108 Info: Jim Staatz, kg9ra@arrl.net

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2000. Six Meter Club of Chicago Hamfest, DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL. Contact: (708) 442-4961.

SATURDAY, JUN 17, 2000. Tailgate Swapfest, St. Paul Technical College, Lower Parking Lot, 235 Marshall Ave., St. Paul, MN. Contact: Ann Foster, N0LLC (www.twinslan.org) e-mail N0LLC@arrl.net

SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2000 Hamfest 00 South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club. American Legion Park, 9327 South Shepard Ave, Oak Creek Info: Verne at (414) 762-3235

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2000. Marshfield Area ARS annual HAMNIC Tenth annual picnic. Gather around 11 a.m. Potluck and Swapfest in Wildwood Park, Marshfield WI. Talk in 147.180. Contact: Guy Boucher, KF9XX, 107 West Third St., Marshfield, WI 54449. (715) 384-4323. e-mail guyboucher@tzn.net Packet: KF9XX @ W9IHW.E5.A1.WI.USA.NA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2000 Circus City Swapfest Sauk County Fairgrounds, Baraboo, WI Circus City Swapfest Info

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2000 Peoria Superfest 2000. Peoria, IL. Contact: Peoria Superfest PO Box 3508 Peoria, IL 61612-3378. (309) 692-

Badger State Smoke Signals

*Amateur Radio
Education and Information*

CHAIRMAN: Kenneth A. Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Telephone (808) 742-3580. kebner@palacenet.net

EDITOR: Jim Romelfanger, K8ZZ, 412½ Ash Street, Baraboo, WI 53913. Telephone (808) 358-4031. smokesigs@baraboo.com

TREASURER: Kenneth A. Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebner, K9EN; Don Evenson, K9JYX; Jim Romelfanger, K8ZZ.

Subscription Rate

1 year (12 issues) \$13.95

Subscription form is on page 5. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebner, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than

3378. e-mail: superfest@juno.com

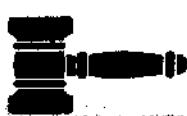
SATURDAY/SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2000. Radio Expo 2000 at Lake County Fairgrounds, Grayslake, IL. Contact: (708) 457 0966. http://www.chicagofmclub.org

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2000. Hamfest, Jane Addams Community Center, 430 West Washington St., Cedarville, IL. Contact: Ruben Dowman, KB9OLF, (815) 563-9020.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2000. HAMFEST Minnesota, St. Paul, MN. Contact: PO Box 5598, Hopkins, MN 55343. (952) 535-0637.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2001. West Allis Radio Amateur Club Midwinter Swapfest, Waukesha WI. Contact: WARAC Swapfest, PO Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

As a service to our readers, this section is available without charge to list your upcoming swapfest, hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to kebner@palacenet.net.



CLUB MEETINGS

ARROWHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. Superior, WI Meetings: Second Tuesday at WITC Conference Center, 600 N. 21st St., Superior, WI. Time: 7:30 p.m. Board meetings held before regular meetings.

the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebner.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebner. Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebner.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Jim Romelfanger NO LATER THAN EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT'S DATE.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebner.

Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

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Badger State Smoke Signals is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-for-profit organization.

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

BADGER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

University of Wisconsin - Madison/W9YT Meetings: First Mondays at 7:30 p.m. in UW Union South. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, (608) 263-4685. Email: w9ixg@arrl.org. Web: http://www.qsl.net/w9yt.

BADGERLAND AMATEUR TELEVISION SOCIETY (BATS)

Check BATS Web page: http://www.shopstop.net/BATS/

CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, WI Second Wednesday. EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: 2nd Tuesday - 7:30 p.m., Eau Claire Parks & Recreation 1300 First Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703. All hams and guests welcome. Wide area coverage repeater KB9RRA, 146.910 MHz. Information: Jim Staatz, KG9MV, (715) 838-9108, or kg9mv@ecol.net.

FALLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Menomonee Falls, WI Meetings: Last Wednesdays at Bank One building in Germantown. Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting time: 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome!

FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Fond du Lac, WI Meetings: Second Monday at Moraine Park Technical College, Fond du Lac, WI. Time: 7 p.m. Information: Gene Olig, KD9ZP, gaolig@pitnet.net Web: http://personal.pitnet.net/FDLHAMS/

FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Madison, WI Meetings: First and third Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Red Cross Building, 4860 Shaboygan Avenue, Room C, downstairs. First building west of Hill Farms State Office Building.

FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: Third Mondays, 7 p.m., Madison Junior High School, 2020 South Carpenter Avenue, Appleton, WI. Information: Chad at (414) 993-0485.

GREATER MILWAUKEE DX ASSOCIATION

Meetings: Fourth Monday of month, 7:30 p.m. Contact any GMDXA member, or Gary Schwartz, K9GS, (414) 363-4439. Email: garyk9gs@solaria.sol.net. Packet: K9GS@WA9KEC.WI.USA.NOAM Packet cluster NB9C for meeting information.

GREEN BAY MIKE AND KEY CLUB

Meetings: Second Thursdays, Media Services area of J. M. Science Building at St. Norbert College in DePere.

GREEN FOX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Greater Green Lake County area Meetings: Third Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Green Lake Town Hall, intersection of County Highways K and N.

KETTLE MORaine RADIO AMATEURS

Meetings: Second Fridays, 7:30 p.m. Waukesha County Technical College, Campus Science Building, Room 102. Talk-in: 147.39 N9KS repeater

LAKESHORE REPEATER ASSOCIATION

Racine, WI Meetings: Last Tuesday, January, April, July, October. New meeting location to be announced.

M & M AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Menomonee, MI General meetings: Monthly, second Thursday, 7 p.m., cafeteria, BAMC basement, Tenth Avenue, Menomonee, MI. Amateurs and guests welcome. Repeater: 147.00, + offset. Sunday net: 7 p.m., 147.00 repeater. Address: P.O. Box 1082, Marinette, MI 54143.

MANITOWOC COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS (ManCoRad)

Second Wednesdays. Directors meeting: 6:30 p.m., City Hall basement, 817 Franklin St., Manitowoc Regular meeting: 7:30 p.m., Associated Bank, lower level, 1000 Franklin St., Manitowoc, WI

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB

Meetings: Last Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI.

NORTHWOODS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Rhineland, WI
Meetings: Third Tuesdays. Doors open 7 p.m.
Meeting 7:30 p.m. South Park School, Rhineland. Talk-
in 146.94 (-600). All visitors welcome.

OZAUKEE RADIO CLUB
Ozaukee County area, WI Meetings: Second
Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Grafton Multipurpose Senior
Center.

**QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS
ASSOCIATION (QCWA)**
Wisconsin Chapter 55
Wisconsin Chapter 55 meets the first Saturday of June
and October. For information about Chapter 55, contact
Ron Yokes, W9BCK, Secretary, 612 N. Pt Washington
Road, Grafton, WI 53024-9703. (262) 375-1774.
mailto:rryokes@execpc.com

**QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS
ASSOCIATION (QCWA)**
Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162
Meetings: Third Monday in January, March, May,
July, September, and November, 7:30 p.m., usually at
Meadows Restaurant, Franksville, WI. Social events:
Third Sundays in February, April, June, August, and
October.

Christmas party: Usually second or third Sunday in
December.

RACINE MEGACYCLE CLUB
Meetings: Second Mondays, 7:30 p.m., New meeting
location to be announced.

RADIO AMATEURS OF WISCONSIN (R.A.W.)
Oshkosh, WI

Meetings: Third Saturday monthly, locations vary.
"R.A.W. is a family oriented club. Most of its meetings
revolve around family doings and outings. We are always
looking for good people to join us.

If you are a ham or interested in ham radio, contact
Mark Miller, N9WT, (920) 231-1662, or Duane Ritschke,
W9UDX, (920) 233-1684."

RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
Saturday coffee at Hardee's in North Monomonic,
corner of Highways 12 and 25 at 9 a.m. Social hour on 4th
Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Peppermill Too, 1414 9th
Street in the L-Mart Shopping Center in January, March,
April, and September through November. Guests
welcome!

RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Onalaska, WI
Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Onalaska
Community Center.

ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB
Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Dodge County
Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI.
ARES Nets: 146.64 (-600) Mondays, 7:30 p.m.,
Saturdays, 7277 KHz, 10:30 a.m.

**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB**
Meetings: Second Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Sheboygan
County Red Cross/Boy Scout Building, 2032 Erie Avenue.

SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Meetings: First Wednesdays, Legion Post 434,
Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. Auctions in March and
October.

SPACE PLACE AMATEUR RADIO CENTER
No meetings. Located on U.W.-Madison campus.
Guest operators are welcome to operate the U.W. Space
Place Amateur Radio Station, N9UW. Information: Don
Michalski, W9IXG, President, (608) 263-4685. Email:
n9uw@sal.wisc.edu

St. CROIX VALLEY RADIO AMATEURS
Hudson, WI
Meetings: Third Tuesdays, St. Croix County
Emergency Government Center, Carmichael Road,
Hudson. Short business meeting at 7:30 p.m. followed by
program. Talkin: 145.13 MHz. All are welcome!

**TAYLOR COUNTY AREA AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB (TCAARC)**
Medford, WI
Meetings: Usually first Thursday, 7 p.m. sharp.
Usual location: Emergency Government meeting
room/Red Cross Office, basement of Sheriff's Annex to
Taylor County Courthouse, 2nd and Ogden Streets,
Medford. Talkin: 147.15 (+600) MHz. Amateurs and
guests are welcome.

ARES Net: Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m., 147.15 (+600)
repeater. Information: Mike Schoenfass, N9GHZ, P.O.
Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405. Phone: (715) 223-3996.

TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Meetings: Held at members' homes. Usually monthly
on Sunday afternoon. Contact: Glenn Eisenbrandt, (414)
563-6502, or John Satterlee, (414) 5563-6381.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB**
Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Washington
County Courthouse. Net: Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., 146.73 (-
600).

WATERTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Meetings: First Thursdays of month, 7 p.m.,
Watertown Public Library, 100 South Water Street.

WAUPACA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
"CQ First Tue.": Social gathering and Dutch treat
luncheon, King's Table, King, WI, on Highway QQ, just
south of Highways 10 and 54, west side of Waupaca.
Gather at 11 to 11:30. Order at noon. Club business
transacted.

"CQ Third Fri.": Social gathering and Dutch treat
dinner. Semi-formal, OM and XYL, at one of the better
supper clubs in the area. Check: Waupaca 147.39 nets at 8
a.m. or 8:50 p.m. for month's meeting location.

WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB
Meetings: Second Tuesdays, 8 p.m., St. Peter's
Episcopal Church, 7929 Lincoln Avenue, entrance is at rear
of building on alley.

WISCONSIN RAPIDS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Meetings: Third Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Room 14 of
Wood County Courthouse. Talkin: 146.79 (-600) for entry
into the building.

WISCONSIN VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION
Wausau, WI
Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Location varies.
Information: 146.64 (-600).

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS
The next quarterly meeting of the Wisconsin
Association of Repeaters will be Saturday, September 11,
1999, at the Chale Motel Restaurant, 10401 N. Port
Washington Rd., Mequon, north of Milwaukee. Dutch
treat lunch at noon. Meeting at 1 p.m. Information:
<http://www.gmttech.com/~war>.

YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Baraboo, WI
Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Room 18,
Baraboo Civic Center at 124 Second Street. Information:
<http://members.baraboo.com/sschulze>.

The Test Point

Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area

June 03, 2000	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
June 03, 2000	Racine, WI
June 03, 2000	St. Paul, MN
June 08, 2000	Apple Valley, MN
June 10, 2000	Blaine, MN
June 10, 2000	Eau Claire, WI
	Hamfest
June 10, 2000	Madison, WI
June 13, 2000	Eden Prairie, MN
June 17, 2000	Cottage Grove, MN
June 17, 2000	Loves Park, IL
June 17, 2000	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
June 24, 2000	Bloomington, MN
June 24, 2000	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
June 24, 2000	Tomahawk, WI
July 01, 2000	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
July 01, 2000	St. Paul, MN
July 08, 2000	Blaine, MN
July 08, 2000	Madison, WI
July 13, 2000	Apple Valley, MN
July 15, 2000	Cottage Grove, MN
July 15, 2000	Loves Park, IL
July 15, 2000	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
July 18, 2000	Eden Prairie, MN
July 18, 2000	Sheboygan, WI
July 22, 2000	Bloomington, MN
July 29, 2000	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
July 29, 2000	Tomahawk, WI
September 09, 2000	Appleton, WI
September 16, 2000	Onalaska, WI
September 16, 2000	Sheboygan, WI
November 04, 2000	Menomonic, WI
November 04, 2000	Onalaska, WI
November 05, 2000	Kaukauna, WI
November 21, 2000	Sheboygan, WI
January 27, 2001	Appleton, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Racine, WI
(except January, July & August)	
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Oshkosh (Omro), WI

Monthly, 1st Sat. St. Paul, MN
Monthly, 2nd Thu. Apple Valley, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat. Madison, WI
Monthly, 2nd Sat. Blaine, MN
Monthly, 3rd Tue. Eden Prairie, MN
Monthly, 3rd Sat. Milwaukee, WI (BE)
Monthly, 3rd Sat. Loves Park, IL
Monthly, 3rd Sat. Cottage Grove, MN
Monthly, 4th Sat. Bloomington, MN
Monthly, Last Sat. Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
(except December)
Monthly, Last Sat. Tomahawk, WI
(January thru October only)
Quarterly Eau Claire, WI
(Second Saturday Jan., Apr., &
Oct.)
plus annual summer hamfest.)

GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS

Attention exam groups: With recent restructuring and
with the fee change which occurred on January 1, will you
please look at the information about your group's sessions
and verify that all is correct. There is an email link at the
bottom of this page. Please send changes and corrections
there. Restructuring will bring a lot of examinees to your
sessions. It is your responsibility that the information given
here is accurate, and your cooperation will be appreciated.

Information which was outdated as of May 12, 2000,
has been deleted. If your group has an update, please send it
to us. Thanks! Be sure to check with sponsors before going
to an examination session. There may be changes and/or
errors in the dates or information given. Some examinations
require filing an FCC or NVEC Form 605 and advance
registration at least 30 days before the exam date. Some VE
teams permit walk-ins. Check with the sponsor.

Many hamfests and swapfests offer examinations. A
hamfest entrance fee should not be charged if you come
only to attend the examination. To register in advance, you
must get a copy of the current FCC Form 605, and fill it out
completely and correctly. Got your form from the FCC as
instructed below, or from the American Radio Relay
League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please
send an SASE if you request a form from the League. FCC
Field Offices seldom stock forms. You can also get a form
from

<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>
or
<ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/Form605>.

A form by FAX is available at (202) 418-0177
(request Form 000605). The FCC Forms Distribution
Center will accept orders at (800) 418-3676. Form 605 has
a main form, plus a Schedule D with two parts (for Vanity
and Physician's Certifications). Forms can also be obtained
from the sponsoring group.

ARRL/VEC examinations require a check for \$6.65
payable to "ARRL/VEC". Exam fees change annually. See
QST, WIAW bulletins, or The ARRL Letter regarding any
annual exam fee changes. As of April 15, 2000,
ARRL/VEC no longer gives a free code test or Element 2.

Test fees: The FCC has announced that the maximum
Amateur Radio examination fee reimbursement that
Volunteer Examiners and Volunteer Examiner
Coordinators can collect during calendar year 2000 is
\$6.66. The ARRL/VEC has set its 2000 test fee at \$6.65.
Per ARRL-VEC policy, there is no examination charge for
those taking only Elements 1A or 2. A \$6.65 fee will be
collected from applicants seeking to upgrade using a
physician's certification to waive the Morse code
examination.

FCC requires applicants to show their original
amateur license or CSCE to the VE team. You must also
have a good copy of your license or CSCE. A copy of your
license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 605
and most VE teams need a copy for their records. One good
CSCE copy is sufficient. You are also be required to have a
photo ID, or two other forms of ID. Contact the VE team
for details. Technician class licensees must show proof of
testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to
General with a code test only, starting April 15. Proof must
be either in the form of a pre-3/21/87 license document or a
"Letter of Verification of Technician License Held Prior to
1987" as requested in writing from the FCC, 1270 Fairfield
Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245.

For those with internet access, a listing of exam
sessions is available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>

By checking this page, you can find registered VE
sessions anywhere in US and some overseas. You can
search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not
specific to any particular VEC. It is a master database.
Thanks to Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, ARRL/VEC

We do not have space in BSSS to carry the
complete examination listings every month. See last
month's BSSS for more information on the above listed
examination sites. Or see <http://www.bsss.org> web site for
the latest information, additions or changes.

Silent Key

Bill Komistra, W9OVZ, Racine, age 85, died May 11, 2000 at Ridge-wood Health Care Center.

He served in the U.S. Army in WW II as a Lieutenant in the Signal Corps, along with his five other brothers.

Bill had been a radio amateur for more than fifty years, and was a member of the Racine Megacycle Club and the Lakeshore Repeater Association. He was very active in the hobby, and worked on many public service communications operations.

He was a member of the Literacy Council, where he taught reading and math at the Racine County Jail. He also enjoyed motorcycling, traveling, and dancing with the Interfaith Singles Club. Bill was a Boy Scout leader, Big Brother, 4-H leader, Hunting Safety Instructor, and a member of the Racine Ski Club.

His wife, Gertrude, preceded him in death September 30, 1978.

FCC to W5YI-VEC: Is that your final answer?

Continued from front page

Maia had ever previously decertified any of his Puerto Rico VEs, if any such examiners later were reinstated, and if any previously decertified VEs were still with the W5YI-VEC as of March 30, 2000. The FCC also asked if Maia intends to reinstate any VEs decertified in the past.

The FCC said it wants a list of W5YI-VEC volunteer examiners in Puerto Rico as of April 8, 2000; asked why only about a third of the 100 W5YI-VEC volunteer examiners then on the rolls in Puerto Rico turned out April 8 at Maia's VE meeting there; and asked if Maia was attempting to contact the VEs who failed to show.

Hollingsworth also questioned Maia's report of a 1995 examination session that allegedly had not been publicly announced, for which only one VE was said to have been in attendance, where an applicant said he was turned away for not having an ap-

pointment, and where no Morse code tapes were available, even though tests were being given for licenses above Technician. The FCC asked which, if any, Puerto Rico testing sessions since January 1, 1998, had been held without required public announcement.

Hollingsworth also enclosed complaints about the W5YI-VEC from amateurs in Texas and Vermont and asked Maia to respond to the individuals.

The FCC recently canceled the licenses of 24 Puerto Rico licensees who had been examined through the W5YI-VEC after the licensees failed to appear for retesting as requested.

The ARRL Letter, 5/17/2000

Thanks for reading Badger State
Smoke Signals!

Hey!

We're on the Web.

Check us out at

<http://www.bsms.org>

Come for the history...

stay for the fun!

SEE THE EXCITING NEW!

BIG SHOW

Featuring

- Gheorghe and Luisa Marinof
- From London
- Rosaire's Comedy Canines
- The DeSanto's
- Clowning Hijinks
- Sascha Gasser
- Slack-wire
- Jacob Barjeda
- Performing African Elephants
- Aerial Artistry

SWAPFEST '00

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Saturday, July 8, 2000 -- 6:00 A.M.

American Legion Post 434
9327 South Shepard Avenue, Oak Creek, WI
Tickets \$5.00
Food and Drinks Available

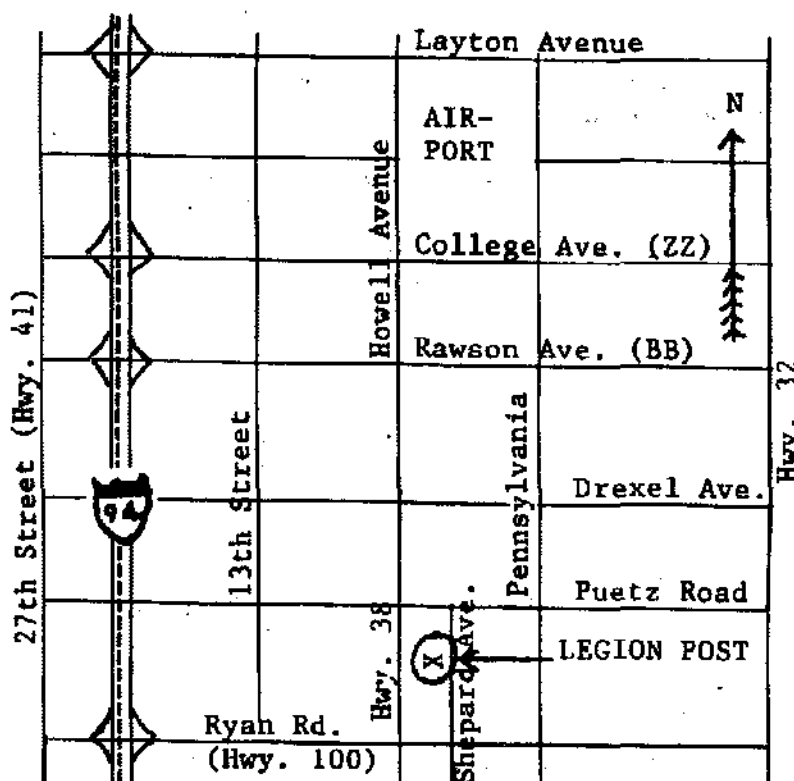
CLUB TREAT - Beer and Soda

Talk-In Frequency =
146.52 (WA9TXE)

For more information:
Phone = (414) 762-3235

1st Prize	\$100.00
2nd Prize	\$75.00
3rd Prize	\$50.00
4th Prize	\$25.00

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JULY 21 - AUG. 12

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Family Will Enjoy!

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin
**CIRCUS
WORLD
MUSEUM**
BARABOO, WISCONSIN

550 Water Street (Hwy 113)
Baraboo, WI 53913

Only 12 Minutes from Wisconsin Dells

24 hr. Information
608-356-0800
www.circusworldmuseum.com

THE 2000 RUN OF THE GREAT CIRCUS TRAIN

The Circus World Museum of Baraboo, in cooperation with the Wisconsin & Southern and Wisconsin Central Railroads, presents the 2000 run of the most beautiful train on earth.

It will also be home to Special Event Station W 9 G, honoring the Gollmar Bros. Circus. That show, as well as Ringling Bros. and Deppe's Classic Country Circus, originated in Baraboo. W9G will operate on 7.240, 14.240 (one at a time), and intermittently on 146.55 MHz simplex FM.

Here's the three-day schedule and scheduled stops.

SATURDAY, JULY 8

9 AM: Depart Baraboo
9:20 AM: Stop #1, Devils Lake State Park North Shore, 10 minutes
10:20 AM: Stop #2, Lodi, Lodi Street
11:15 AM: Waunakee
11:35 AM: Stop #3, Madison, 1890 E. Johnson St., Wisconsin & Southern Yards, 60 minutes
1:20 PM: Stoughton
1:40 PM: Edgerton
2:00 PM: Milton
2:35 PM: Stop #4, Whitewater at Whitewater and Freemont Streets, Old Depot, 30 minutes
3:40 PM: Eagle
5 PM: Stop #5, Waukesha, Payne and Dolan, Hwy. 164, Overnight

SUNDAY, JULY 9

8 AM: Depart Waukesha
9:01 AM: Sussex
9:45 AM: Slinger
10:51 AM: Byron
11:00 AM: Fond du Lac
12:24 PM: Stop #6, Oshkosh, Broad Street, 40 minutes
1:34 PM: Neenah
2:00 PM: Stop #7, Appleton, Richmond to Oneida Street, 20 minutes
2:44 PM: Kaukauna
3:50 PM: Stop #8, Green Bay, Depot at Dousman St., 100 minutes
5:30 PM: Depart Green Bay
6:00 PM: DePere
7:40 PM: Stop #9, Appleton, Stroebe Rd at Hwy. 41, Overnight

Monday, July 10

8:30 AM: Depart Appleton
9:12 AM: Neenah
9:47 AM: Oshkosh
10:11 AM: Van Dyne
11:01 AM: Stop #10, Fond du Lac, Ann St. south of Military Road, 45 minutes
12:15 PM: Byron
1:21 PM: Slinger
2:36 PM: Germantown
3:00 PM: Granville
4:00 PM: Stop #11, Milwaukee, 3700 N. Richards Street at Keefe Avenue

Odd\$ and Ends

✓Longtime *Newsline* anchor and Space Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) Chairman Roy Neal, K6DUE, has a new home in cyberspace. Actually, it is a tribute page to Roy from the folks at NASA television. The purpose of the site is to commemorate Roy's career as a broadcaster, and his pioneering work with ham radio in space.

To see how the folks at NASA television honored Roy, take your web browser to the

<http://209.187.135.35/K6DUE.html>

or take the link.

Newsline, 05/26/2000

✓HEY!! If your club or group does Field Day, we just might print a photo or two of it here in BSSS. How does that happen? You take the pictures and send them to the editor, whose address is on page 2 in the masthead.

No guarantee we can send them back, so get two sets made. We hope to see a few familiar and unfamiliar faces in these pages in the next month or two. Thanks!

Digital photos are OK if shot in medium-resolution mode. My internet mailbox is only 3 MB. Send one at a time if you have several, space 'em over a few days.

K9ZZ

Ride the Great Circus Train!

Join the Wisconsin and Southern Railroad Company for the Great Circus Train 2000.

Seats will be on the Wisconsin & Southern's coaches (not the Circus World Museum's cars). Round-trip transportation (via coach, one way), continental breakfast, box lunch, snacks, and beverages are included.

Price: \$125 adults per person per day, \$75 children per child per day.

Round-trip transportation is available from either the departure point or arrival point each day. More details are available on our web site at:
<http://www.wsorailroad.com/circus2000.html>
or call (608) 241-9767 for a complete schedule.

SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 8: Baraboo to Waukesha, departing at 9 a.m., arriving at 5 p.m.

Sunday, July 9: Waukesha to Green Bay, departing at 8:30 a.m., arriving at 4 p.m.

Monday, July 10: Appleton to Milwaukee, departing at 8:30 a.m., arriving at 4:30 p.m.

TO ORDER TICKETS, PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Daytime phone: (_____) _____ - _____
Excursion Date(s): _____ Your departure point: _____
Number of adults: _____ Number of children: _____
Credit card number: _____ (We accept AMEX, Visa, and Mastercard).
Expiration: _____ / _____

✓ Please add \$4 to the final order for shipping. Please enclose this form with credit card details or a check to:

Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co., Passenger Department
5300 N. 33rd St. • Milwaukee, WI 53209

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✓ Demo Units

✓ Inexpensive equipment cases

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Regular Individual Subscription Rate*

1 Year: \$13.95

PLEASE PRINT!

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☐ New

☐ Renewal

Send this form, with your check or money order, to Ken Ebner, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901.

Please do NOT send cash!

JUNE 2000

The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR • 105 Martin Drive
Port Washington, WI 53074-9654
(262) 284-9346
skaplan@mcw.edu



No. 79: Privacy and a Personal Firewall

If you are at all attuned to computing issues in the news, you might have noticed that several places have printed articles lately concerning consumer privacy on the Internet. Two examples are BIG BROWSER IS WATCHING YOU (Consumer Reports, May 2000) and KEEPING YOUR PRIVATE INFORMATION PRIVATE (by Brett Glass in PC Magazine, 6Jun2000). It is an issue looming larger and larger with each passing day.

I am not talking here about paranoid delusions that nefarious individuals are trying to get information about you. Rather, I am talking about real efforts by companies to "mine" data, including your personal data, for their gain. The scary thing is that this data mining goes on not just daily, but every second of every day. It is done without your permission or consent, and it is done without any indication to you that it is happening. At present, this is a perfectly legal activity in this country, although it is illegal in much of Europe.

Yes, cookies are part of this story, but I won't go into cookies again in this article because I have written about them in the past and the problem goes much deeper than that. For example, Steve Gibson (Gibson Research, Inc.; <http://grc.com/optout.html>) recently unearthed the fact that a company that puts banner ads on websites collects information on which ads you click and the time you spend reading each one. It sends that information back to the company, without your consent and permission. Even scarier, this information can be associated with YOU, your name, address, telephone number, social security number and anything else about you that has been given to anyone through your computer. Even if you have not sent this critical personal data out to someone from your machine, if it exists on your hard drive, it can be accessed by unscrupulous persons, in the background, while you are connected to the Internet. The worst news: not only is your data available for access, it probably has been accessed several or many times. Let me again emphasize that all this is done without your knowledge and with nothing on your screen to alert you. It is a completely covert intrusion.

"Come on, Stan, you really are getting paranoid" is probably what you are thinking at this point. Well, folks, that is exactly what I thought too in the past when I occasionally heard such allegations. But that changed when I began to read on the subject. I urge you to begin, too. At the very least, log in to Steve Gibson's site referenced above, read his stuff, and perhaps download his tiny program (Optout.exe) to do a test of your ports to see how vulnerable you really are. After that, you will want to read further. Then, when you are convinced, come back to this article to get the following address for an essential software package:

<http://www.zonelabs.com/zonealarm.htm>

ZoneAlarm is a program classed as a personal firewall.

In a car, the firewall is the barrier that separates the engine from the passenger

compartment. In the computing world, it is a security level between you and the Internet. ZoneAlarm will halt any intrusion into your machine. It will then pop up a menu telling you of its action, the Internet address of the intruder, and ask you if you want to grant permission or not. Moreover, it will also block any of the software installed on your machine, such as Internet Explorer, Netscape and others which routinely send out data to their "homes" without asking your permission. You can grant permission for each instance of an attempt if you feel the attempt is justified. Alternatively, you can grant blanket permission to a program that routinely needs web access, such as Norton's antiviral software, which needs to access the Internet periodically to update virus definitions. Or, you can deny permission.

Sound interesting? I bet you are wondering how much it will cost. Well, get this. It is free for individual use!!! The only cost is your time, to download (1.6 Mbytes), install and learn how to use it. The user interface is well designed, everything is intuitive, and it is quick and easy to learn how it works and how to use it to your best advantage. Then, you can forget about it. Until it pops up to tell you there has been an attempted intrusion! As mentioned before, it will also supply you with an Internet address of the intruder, but in numerical format like this: 205.183.255.0 If you are curious as to who this is, you can go to a website at <http://www.arin.net/whols/index.html>. There, you can type in the number and the site will show you as much information about the addressee as is found in the ARIN database. ARIN (American Registry for Internet Numbers, Inc.) is the non-profit organization that allocates IP numbers such as those shown above. Every Internet address in the world has an IP number, which computers and routers use directly (converted to binary), much like a house number. The address we humans use is an association of this number with letter strings that our human brain can use much better than strings of zeros and ones.

My best advice to you is to get and install the program immediately and don't be without it in the future. Not just because the program is so neat (which it is) or because it is free (which it is). Rather, because it will take you a light-year jump ahead in personal security. I think that Zone Labs has done the American Computing Public a huge service by providing it free, and I hope the company does very well in its commercial sales by way of reward. This program is now on my list of absolutely-must-have software.

Happy computing!

Reprinted, by permission, from the ORC Newsletter, Ozaukee Radio Club (Ted Schweitzer, KB9RLI, Editor, 126 Lilac Lane, Belgium, WI 53004. <theo@execpc.com>).

FROM THE OLDE GOAT..

✓ Field Day approaches quickly. It's always the last full weekend in June.

This event is the most visible - and most "visual" - event each for radio amateurs. That makes it an ideal opportunity to tell the general public who we really are and what we really are about.

If your club or group is "doing" Field Day this year, a short news release to all of your local and area media may bring a reporter, a radio reporter, or even a TV crew to your site. But you have to tell them about it!

Many folks are unaware that much of the news they read in their local newspaper, hear on radio, or see on TV, originated not with a news-digging reporter - but with a well-written news release. In the case on smaller newspapers, I'd guess that probably 30 to as much as 50 percent of a paper's content originated with a news release.

It should be on a letterhead. The "pyramid style" is easiest and most succinct. Here's how such a release would begin:

"The Green Lightning Amateur Radio Club of Parkowenfurt, Wisconsin, will take to the field for the annual emergency exercise called 'Field Day' on June 24 and 25.

"The exercise, starting at 1 p.m. Saturday, is a nationwide test of thousands of groups of ham radio operators' ability to communicate under simulated emergency conditions.

"Most of these groups will operate using power from generators or other sources independent of commercial power mains. Although most clubs and groups do advance planning for the event, the unexpected usually happens. The exercise reminds the radio amateurs of what to expect and how to deal with problems. The bottom line of the exercise is communicating with other such groups, improvising as needs dictate.

"The general public is welcome to visit the site. Someone will be available to answer questions.

"Amateur Radio operators have been the 'backbone' communications system every

time a major disaster - small or large - occurs, and they are known for being able to communicate under any circumstances.

"Questions may be directed to John Buttonbottom, Z9KK, at 555-1212."

Then, type "END". Following that, type an invitation to the reporter/news director to come to your site. If you will have refreshments there, be sure to mention that.

That's a very general news release. You will have to make it "fit" your club or group's plans and situation. Do this - and maybe they will come. Be sure you mail them about ten days before the event, no later. Hit ALL area media: newspapers, radio, and television. Follow that up with a polite telephone reminder four days or so before Field Day.

And for Pete's sake, use your real club name and contact person. I went a bit silly up above.

✓ People in my age group - and pretty much everyone else - may want to be in Chippewa Falls July 16 for a concert at the Northwest Wisconsin State Fair. Who's doing the show? Veteran rock 'n' roll stars Jan and Dean, famous for hits such as "Little Old Lady from Pasadena", "Surf City", "Dead Man's Curve", "Linda", "Popsicle", "Drag City", and many others. Why am I telling you this in a ham radio newspaper? No reason other than to tell you they give you a great concert, and they don't swear. That they are also my friends has absolutely nothing to do with it. If you go, pay attention to what happens after "Dean Man's Curve". You have a surprise coming if you have not heard and seen this performed by Jan and Dean; Jan Berry was sort of psychic when he recorded "Dead Man's Curve". He was nearly killed in a car crash about a year after "Curve" hit the charts. This man has my admiration and respect - he is the epitome of a "not-a-quitter". Dean Torrence's voice, and especially his falsetto, are fantastic stuff. David Logeman is a great drummer, and Gary Griffin is amazing on keyboard. Go thou forth and enjoy.

✓ Speaking of going forth and enjoying: Have a great summer!

K9ZZ



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The TX RX Systems Inc. patented Vari-Notch filter circuit, a pseudo-bandpass design, provides low loss, high TX to RX, and between-channel isolation, excellent for amateur band applications. TX RX Systems Inc. has been manufacturing multicoupling systems since 1976. Other models available for 220 and 440 MHz, UHF ATV and 1.2 GHz.

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19" RACK MOUNT

PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Kim Kunze, N9SDL, Secretary

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI 54402

Six Meter Repeater: 51.19 Input/52.89 Output

Meeting Minutes May 4, 2000

Meeting was called to order by KB9DED. Members present: N9NMH; N9IAB; N9LIA; N9TTA; N9MEA; KB9RKA; KB9FRB; KB9DZG; N9SDL; KB9RKB; W9WW; KB9MCZ; WD9CPY; N9YYU; N3FDB; KB9UCQ; KB9PVI. Minutes as published in BSSS approved by N9MEA and W9WW. Treasurer's report approved by N9LIA and N9NMH.

New Business

The following are the new officers:

Mike, KB9DED: President
Don, W9WW: Vice President
Mark, N9MEA: Treasurer
Kim, N9SDL: Secretary

Don, W9WW offered some Field Day sug-

gestions for consideration and action upon at the June meeting. One suggestion is to have someone coordinate getting some grills to the Camp Phillips site for a Saturday evening Family gathering. Also to coordinate coolers, ice and soft drinks. It was also suggested that members attending toss in \$5 to cover the cost of the soft drinks and ice.

Also to be discussed at the June meeting will be securing a new Trustee for the W9SM club call and repeaters. The trustee of the call is responsible for any and all use of the W9SM call. The repeater trustee is responsible for the goings on of the Repeater.

The evening's program was a Weather-spotting program put on by the National Weather Service out of Green Bay. It was an excellent program.

Adjournment: N9LIA and W9WW.

Respectfully submitted:
Kim Kunze, N9SDL



SHEBOYGAN

County Amateur Radio Club

★

Sky Borkenhagen, N9XRU, Secretary
N6466 Plank Circle • Glenbeulah WI 53023

2-Meter Repeater: 147.06 Output

The May meeting was called to order by the club President, Steve, N9TRK, at 7:00 p.m. local time. There were 8 members present at the meeting. The SCARC meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month in the Red Cross building at 2032 Erie Ave. in Sheboygan.

The MS Walkathon event that took place on Sunday, April 9th was reviewed and shared with club members. The consensus of all who helped out in this year's enjoyable event felt it was another successful year. Thanks again to all who were able to help out in this important event this year!

The club treasurer Mike, K9SJ, gave the treasurer's report as being at \$380.35 at present.

The club nominations were discussed and voted on. The following 2000-2001 terms are as follows.

- ✓ Steve, N9TRK, President
- ✓ Mike, K9SJ, Treasurer
- ✓ Sky, N9XRU, Secretary
- ✓ Larry, WB9FXQ, Board Member
- ✓ Steve, AA9SJ, Board Member
- ✓ Lyle, WE9R, Board Member

The SCARC Field Day, 2000 event taking place June 24-25 at the Taylor Park site was discussed. It was decided we will be operating as a 5A station again this year. Steve, N9TRK, e-mailed members a Field Day Site Draft Plan. Setup plans, equipment etc. were discussed. The operating frequencies that are available are 10, 20, 75, 80. We are using hourly time slots on the sign-up list.

Complete hourly commitments are not necessary. Any one interested in helping out in this fun event should contact Steve, N9TRK. Steve can also be contacted on the 147.060 repeater; probably the best time would be following one of the Monday night fun nets. Times and frequencies are on a first come, first serve basis.

We would like to invite any members from

the Mancorad Radio Club who are interested in operating to come and join us if you can.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m. after a hands on demonstration of the logging program we will be using during Field Day.

The SCARC 2 Meter net meets Monday nights at 8:00 p.m. local time on 147.060, PL107.2+. This is a fun net, and all are welcome. Any members willing to take net control for one or more weeks? Contact Steve, N9TRK.

The Saturday morning Sheboygan Hams breakfast is held at the following venues:

1st Saturday at 8:00 a.m. - Junes in Sheboygan

2nd Saturday at 8:00 a.m. - Family Restaurant in Cleveland

3rd Saturday at 8:00 a.m. - Jumping Jacks - Kohler Sports Core

4th Saturday at 8:00 a.m. - Park View Restaurant - County PP Sheb Falls

5th Saturday at 8:00 a.m. - Hill Farm Restaurant - County V and OK

Just a reminder, if you use e-mail, consider signing up on the Sheboygan Hams mailing list. Simply submit your e-mail address to:

<julian@bongo.tele.com>. All e-mail sent to <shebham@tele.com> will be forwarded to all listed subscribers. Thanks, N6ARE, for providing this mail server for SCARC use!

For those of you who do not have an e-mail address and have correspondence for the club, our address is: SCARC, P.O. Box 1282, Sheboygan, WI 53082-1282.

Net Schedule

8:00 p.m. Monday nights, SCARC fun net, 147.060, PL 107.2 +

Respectfully submitted:
Sky Borkenhagen, N9XRU

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Bette Kratz, KF9ZU, Secretary

950 E. Trout Valley Rd. • Friendship WI 53934-9672

WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CDT	Manager
BWN	Yes	3985	1100	0600	W9RCW
BEN	Yes	3985	1700	1200	KE9VU
WSBN	Yes	3985	2230	1730	WB9WHQ
WNN	Yes	3723	2300	1800	KB9OCZ
WSSN	Yes	3645	2330	1830	N9BDL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0000	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0300	2200	W9UW

RCRA	No	01/81 (Mondays CDT) (Menomonie Area)	0030	1930	K9OMC
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Gr. Bay	No	72/12 (Green Bay Area)	0245	2145	WB9NRK
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ARES	No	4.65/5.25 (South East/South Central Wisconsin)	0200	2100	
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RACES	No	3993.5 (LSB Sunday)	1400	0900	WA9OAY
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Wisconsin Section Traffic Manager's Report

Who's the Boss?

I think that, around my house, I might be the boss -- whenever my wife allows it. At work, the boss may be your supervisor or - if you're self-employed - a customer is in charge. It can be the traffic cop on the road, the director at the symphony, or the chairperson at the committee meeting. One thing's for sure. On any National Traffic System net session, the boss is the net control.

A Net Manager appoints a Net Control Station because the NM trusts the NCS. It's the NCS who must call up the net, make decisions about what to do first and how to do it. Once that net has begun, the NCS is indeed boss.

When the NCS says, "Net Stand by" or "QNX" -- that means everyone listens. There's no chatter. There are no additional check-ins. It is not a time for visiting, for informals, or for questions. "Net stand by" means -- do not transmit.

When the NCS directs a station to change frequency, to clear traffic on the net frequency, or to decide which is best, the station responds as the NCS directs. If an NCS says, "Please notify me if you leave the net," stations should request permission to leave. If the NCS says (as may often be necessary with poor band conditions), "We are moving this net to 40 meters. Please join us on 7.283 MHz." -- everybody moves. This isn't the right time for discussion. The decision has been made.

If an NCS asks stations to check in carefully to avoid doubling, stations should use this easy three-step procedure: (1) Give the call of the NCS (2) Listen on frequency (3) Then give your own call and indicate if you have traffic. Except for "perfect" doubles (Or maybe they're really not so perfect), this should make the job of the NCS easier.

Net Control Stations have some net savvy. They often know who can handle what traffic, who's a likely 9RN or WIN representative for taking out-of-state traffic, and if there may be an outlet on another net. They usually know which stations can be of assistance due to signal strength or location in the state.

If you're interested in serving as an NCS, just let the Net Manager know. There are plenty of opportunities. See the list of net stats for the net managers of each Wisconsin section net. You might check out the hints for an NCS on <www.wna.eboard.com>.

It isn't always stressful being an NCS, but cooperative stations checking in makes it a breeze -- even when there's lots to do. Giving the NCS some respect -- listening and following directions -- can really make life easier. Come to think of it, that works when I do that with my XYL, too.

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY APRIL 2000

NET	QMI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	1302	1660	2250	30	
					W9UW for W9RCW
BEN	518	68	835	30	KE9VU
WSBN	617	56	866	30	WB9WHQ
WNN	130	20	324	30	KB9OCZ
WSSN	211	22	334	31	N9BDL
WIN/E	210	98	314	30	WB9ICH
WIN/L	193	66	319	30	W9UW
TOTALS	3181	1991	5242	211	

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY April 2000

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL
W9UW	0	396	51	375	822 BPL
W9RCW	0	348	37	346	751 BPL
K9JPS	3	345	3	343	694 BPL
W27V	0	238	31	238	509 BPL
W9CBE	1	224	240	3	468
W9YCY	0	204	231	0	435
K9GU	0	156	27	150	333 BPL
N9CK	7	75	72	3	157
K9FHI	0	37	73	6	116
K9LGU	3	72	37	1	113
N9BDL	0	31	74	2	107
W9YCY	1	43	45	14	103
W9UW	0	61	37	0	98
K9RTB	0	8	47	2	57
KE9VU	0	23	31	1	55
K9GB	0	11	41	0	52
AG9G	0	5	48	0	51
N9KHO	0	19	23	0	42
KB9RDB	0	35	5	2	42
K9FVX	0	0	35	0	35
W9BHL	0	2	28	2	32
N9TVT	0	107	317	2	32
WB9ICH	0	22	3	2	27
W9ODV	0	0	25	0	25
K9HDF	0	1	21	1	23
AA9BB	1	1	16	0	18
WD9FLJ	2	3	4	3	12
N9JHY	0	0	7	0	7
W9PVD	0	0	1	0	1

P S H R SUMMARY April 2000

CALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TL
W9RCW	60	0	0	346	0	30	0	0	446
K9JPS	43	24	0	343	3	10	0	0	423
K9FHI	60	24	24	6	0	30	0	30	174
W9YCY	60	24	24	14	1	20	0	10	153
K9RTB	60	24	6	2	0	30	0	30	152
N9BDL	60	24	24	2	0	30	0	0	140
W9CBE	60	24	24	3	1	20	0	0	132
WD9FLJ	50	0	24	3	2	20	0	30	129
AG9G	60	24	18	0	0	10	10	0	122
N9TVT	60	24	24	2	0	10	0	0	120
K9FVX	38	3	0	0	0	10	0	0	51

73 - Denny K9LGU / STS

Lakeshore Repeater Association

147.270 MHz • Racine, Wisconsin

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO • 5400 Six Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402-9741
wa9jmo@wi.net

Our scheduled move of the 440 system from the Explorer Post in Kenosha to a site on Wood Road and County Highway KR in Racine County was postponed because of high winds. We will try to make the move on June 3rd, weather permitting. It is hoped that our 70-cm repeater will be back in operations before our July 25th meeting. We still have a few details to work through. When they have been resolved and the antenna installed, we will have a very nice UHF system with ERP of 150 watts, a PL of 127.3, 442.000 MHz in and 447.000 out.

The communication for the annual Racine Lutheran High School Walk-a-Thon on May 12th was flawless. Twelve repeater members assisted seven point checkers and provided roving stations with teachers riding shotgun to make sure everything ran smooth. It did! I would like to thank

the following individuals for their time, talent and equipment utilized in this community endeavor: Ken Knoff, N9NBC; Fern Fisher, W9LCJ; Bill Fitchow, NW9P; Al Algiers, W9HR; Herb Ladwig, W9PHJ; Rick Panyk, KG9ER; Phil Newmiller, KC9IS; Ron Fox, K9AKH; Bob Jensen, W0WLN; Mike Melnik, N9PMO; Lloyd Gorsiski, WB9RGO; and Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO.

Our next repeater meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 25, 2000 at the Racine Red Cross Building beginning at 7:30 PM. An ARES meeting at 6 p.m. will precede our gathering.

I have the sad duty to report that Bill Komistra, W9OVZ, became a Silent Key on May 11, 2000.

73, Larry McCalvy
WA9JMO

Quarter Century Wireless Association Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO
5400 Six Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402



June 11, 2000, the second Sunday of the month will play host, along with Ken (N9NBC) and Marbeth Knoff to our Annual Mosquito Awareness bash. The Gala affair will kick-off at 1 p.m. at the Knoff's Palatial Estate, 16616 12th Avenue, Paris, WI (Kenosha County, I-94 to Hwy E, and then head west). Party attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass, their own meat to grill, and their good spirits.

Field Day 2000 will be held at Decision Farm, 5400 Six Mile Road, in Caledonia on June 24-25, 2000. The crew will begin erecting antennas, tents, radios and power supplies around noon on the 24th. The chapter will set up in the hay field just to the east of the barn (same as the previous three-years). We will again operate QRP battery in our quest for contacts. Questions, concerns and issues related to Field Day should be directed to our Chairman, Ken Knoff, N9NBC. Plan on joining us, we usually have a great time!

QCWA's International Board of Directors has awarded the International Convention for the year 2001 to Chapter 162. The convention will take place on a cruise ship departing Miami in late October 2001 for a week of wonderful activities. The actual departure date and ship

have yet to be determined. I will share the details of this endeavor as it unfolds and try to provide a picturesque explanation of what the cruise has to offer with sites to visit and on board activities.

The 2000 Dayton Hamvention has marched into history. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, we walked the endless (or so it seemed) aisles of wares, hunting bargains. Many were found! The majority of commercial vendors were indoors with computers and computer parts; commercially build ham gear and antennae; and, it seemed, like everything else possibly associated with ham operations. Lots of good stuff and lots of junk, depending on your way of thinking. (Larry, beauty is in the eye of the beholder! - BSSS editor.) We even stayed for four hours on Sunday trying to pick up some last minute buys before heading back to Wisconsin. The Hamvention was expecting 30,000 visitors to roam around the 4,000 flea market outdoor displays and the 800 indoor booths. We had a grand time. If you missed it you missed a good one.

On a sad note, our Chapter lost one of our founding members, Bill Komistra, W9OVZ, when he became a Silent Key on May 11, 2000.

73, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO

RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC.

STEVE HART, KA9OMC, SECRETARY

E616 810TH AVENUE

KNAPP, WI 54749

2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output

Greetings, RCRA sponsors and guests.

News of NQ9X, Ed Van Sickle, is that he has undergone surgery and is in a few week rehabilitation period. Cards or letters can help to speed Ed's recovery. Send to: Veterans Medical Center, Patient Ed Van Sickle, One Veterans Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55417.

The club was invited to participate in the Cedar Falls thrift sales this year by both KF9CU, Arlene Kraft, and KB9NIR, Scott Kilde. We ended up at Scott's, and while the thrift sale yielded only \$2.50, it was a complete social success. Our thanks to Scott for reclaiming a trailer load of new electronic parts from his work location. We expect to offer some at local ham-fests and see if there are any vendors that may be interested in bulk purchases for a donation to the club. Sponsors of RCRA are also encouraged to take advantage of the many parts we have on hand for your repair or building projects. Make an appointment to dig through the inventory. Many thanks to Scott for all his help with RCRA.

We are all celebrating KB9TAC, Andy Wagner's, graduation from McMonie High

School. He has been very busy working at Culver's and attending extra schooling UW-Stout in astronomy, along with his participation in school band and Ludington Guard band. Andy plans on attending UW-Stout this coming fall, and hopes to get some air time.

KB9NIR, Scott Kilde at Cedar Falls, would like to sell a Gem Quad Beam for 10, 15, and 20 meters. Call Scott at (715) 235-3203. If you are interested in this, waste not time, as Scott will be going to the Sudan, South Africa, soon for an undetermined time.

W9QAH, "Auction Bruce Walther" at Stevens Point, has had some back surgery and is back home. Bruce wishes to thank everyone for the cards and well wishes he received during his down time.

KB9SGY, David Garnett at Elk Lake, is looking around for something high frequency that may have a digital frequency display. Dave has worked the world on his Heath HW-101, but is having some difficulties keeping it running.

KB9PIL, Bob Rohrsen, is working on a six-meter repeater for the Elk Mound area.

The Racine Megacycle Club



Club Station W9UDU • Racine, WI
Don Parkinson, KB9HAM, Secretary
c/o RMC • P.O. Box 3 • Racine, WI 53401-0003
e-mail: w9udu@wi.net

Web: <http://www2.wi.net/~hamradio/>

Voice mail: (414) 552-6RMC • ARRL Affiliated

Providing communications for American Red Cross and ARES

The Racine Megacycle Club met on May 8th at 7:30 p.m. by the traditional introductions by all those present. The meeting was held at the Gateway Technical College with Bob Burgermeister, W9EH, presiding. The minutes were read and corrections to Kenny Kuchar's call sign N9WHR was noted and corrected - mis-reading of the minutes. A motion was carried by Kenny, N9WHR, to approve the minutes as corrected, and seconded by Matthew Weeks, KB9ULU.

The president mentioned that we had a second meeting with the Boy Scouts at the Red Cross during the month of April. The scouts participated in some hands-on communications. There were 3 different groups: CW, headed by Cheryl Miller (WS9P), Dan Miller (KA9OIL) and Rob Madson (KF9ZT) headed the Satellite and direction finding group, and Dave Whitham (KC9NG) worked in the "shack". Others who attended were Ken Kuchar (N9WHR), Robert Burgermeister (W9EH) and Rees Roberts (K9UUT).

Dave Whitham mentioned that the Boy Scouts were a bit timid about talking until a Scout Master in New Hampshire was picked up as one of the contacts from the "shack". Then it brought together some common ground with the boys and something to talk about. It was a good time for all that were present. The book, "Now You're Talking", was given out, particularly to those that who interested, along with two extras for the Troop.

Treasury report was read and discussion of the *Badger Smoke Signals* subscription was mentioned. The report was accepted as read.

Old Business

None was brought up.

New Business

KC9NG will be entertaining us in next month's meeting on HF/DXing, as reported to us by Rees Roberts (K9UUT).

The RMC board was at the Red Cross Building prior to the meeting to check out the equipment. The cost of repairs to the generator was less than \$13.00. We thank Scott Firbrantz (KB9UGH) for the donation of his technical skills and helping us out. The generator was repaired and is in good working condition.

President Robert Burgermeister mentioned that he would like to bring together an interesting twist to Field Day. This will be a different kind of field day, he warned, "stayed tuned." Robert mentioned that he would like to bring this into a realistic setting and not worry of the contest aspect, but have fun in doing it. Field Day is June 24th and 25th.

No other business was brought up. Ken Kuchar (N9WHR) motioned to close the meeting and Don Parkinson (KB9HAM) seconded to adjourn the business meeting.

Rees Roberts invited our honored guest, Austin Kyser (K9GEM), from the Badger Contesters, to speak and share what the group is all about. He shared the vagabond life of a Badger Contest and how exciting that can be. Again, we thank Austin for sharing his time with us. □

In Memoriam

William J. Komistra, W9-QVZ, became a Silent Key on May 11, 2000.

A lifelong Racine resident, Bill served in the US Army as a Signal Corp Lieutenant during WWII, along with his other five brothers. Bill retired from Twin Disk in 1978. He was a Boy Scout Leader, Big Brother, 4-H Leader, Hunting Safety Instructor, and as a member of the Racine Literacy Council, he taught reading and math at the Racine County Jail. Bill loved motorcycling, traveling and dancing.

Bill's greatest love was Amateur Radio. Licensed for more than 65 years, Bill's contributions to the hobby are an impossible task to list. They cover too many facets over too many years to adequately recall. Bill was a charter and founding member of the Racine Megacycle Club (circa 1937); a founding and charter member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association's Chapter 162 in 1987; was selected as the Racine/Kenosha Ham of the Year in 1992; and received the Olie Fox, K9AKG Award of Excellence in 1998. Bill has received many recognition awards from the National QCWA headquarters; two of last ones include a certificate attesting to 65-years as a licensed Amateur Radio Operator, and a certificate of Appreciation for assisting in two QCWA national elections.

Bill has touched the lives of many enthusiastic individuals as they studied for their own license. Bill shared his great antenna knowledge and operating skills with area Ham classes over the years. His mechanical aptitude was uncanny. When he could not find a part to rebuild an old generator or radio, he made the part.

And whenever anyone asked Bill for assistance on any project; his response was always "Yes!"

Bill will be sadly missed!

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO

Riley Hollingsworth: Is my face red?

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says he

KB9TLV, John McDonald at Cumberland, recently worked Puerto Rico on six meters. John says the band has been open and he expects to work the contest on June 10.

Welcome back to WA7UVX, John Ingersoll, to the Eau Claire area.

N9PPE, Jeff Cole at Bloomer, is working on two kits. Jeff purchased the Elecraft K2 and the Hamtronics R139 weather radio. So far, Jeff likes the manual with the K2, and says they are a lot like the old Heathkit manuals. More on this as it progresses.

Hope to see you all at the Eau Claire Hamfest June 10.

Steve Hart, KA9OMC
RCRA Secretary/Treasurer

was just trying to see if the amateur community was paying attention when he suggested on his recent Radio Amateur Information Network enforcement news report (<http://www.rainreport.com>) that the use of phonetics during station identification was contrary to the amateur rules.

As Hollingsworth has since conceded, after being challenged from several quarters, the applicable FCC station ID rule -- 97.119(b)(2) -- specifically encourages "use of a standard phonetic alphabet as an aid for correct station identification". [emphasis added].

"I plead temporary insanity," Hollingsworth told the ARRL. "I was working too close to my antennas the evening before."

The ARRL Letter

Mancorad Radio Club

Theresa Hartlaub, KB9KXE,
Secretary

P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI
54221-0204



2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output

May 10, 2000

The Mancorad Radio Club May meeting was called to order by President Fred (W6BSF) at 7:36 p.m. The April meeting minutes were approved as printed in the *Badger Smoke Signals* by motions made by Vic (WB9VYO) and seconded by Ken (K9HAG). Roger (W9NPX) gave the treasurers report for the month. It was approved by all with motions made by Chuck (N9WUN) and Gene (KB9KXF).

The club welcomed new member, Jerry (K9JHK). Motions were made by Janice (N9IQZ) and Denise (N4WGK). Jerry comes in from Sheboygan and we are glad to have him in the club.

Final discussion was held for the Hamfest, which will be held on Saturday, May 13. Set up is scheduled for Friday evening, beginning at 6:00. Everyone's help will be greatly appreciated either Friday or Saturday. The committee reported everything is coming together and it looks to be a good Hamfest. One last note - there will be no get together on Saturday evening after the Hamfest.

Fred (W6BSF) gave a report on the Cobia Event held on April 29 and 30. Antennas were set up Friday evening. 721 contacts were made, which at the present time puts us in 1st place. So far he has sent out 150 QSL cards. He thanked all members who had helped in any way with the 2 day event. Tom, from Iowa, manned the public relations table in the museum. Thank you, Tom, for an outstanding job.

Club jackets and club badges are still available. The logo can also be printed on T-shirts or sweatshirts of your choosing.

Everyone is reminded that there will be no meetings in June, July, and August. At the

September meeting the nominating committee for elections will be chosen. Any one interested in being on the committee is welcome. Elections for officers will be held in October. Our club annual picnic will be held on September 30 at Lincoln Park. Further information will be given at a later date by Fred (W6BSF).

The bike races held for the leukemia fund will be held in July. Steve (N9PBL) is coordinating this event. Think about helping if you can. Details to follow. Good luck to all members who are taking their tests on Saturday during the Hamfest. Also, congratulations to a who have already upgraded their licenses.

The membership drawing was held with Gene (WB9DQD) being picked. He was not in attendance so the pot will go to 7.00. Everyone enjoyed lunch provided by Gene (KB9KXF) and Theresa (KB9KXE). Thank you.

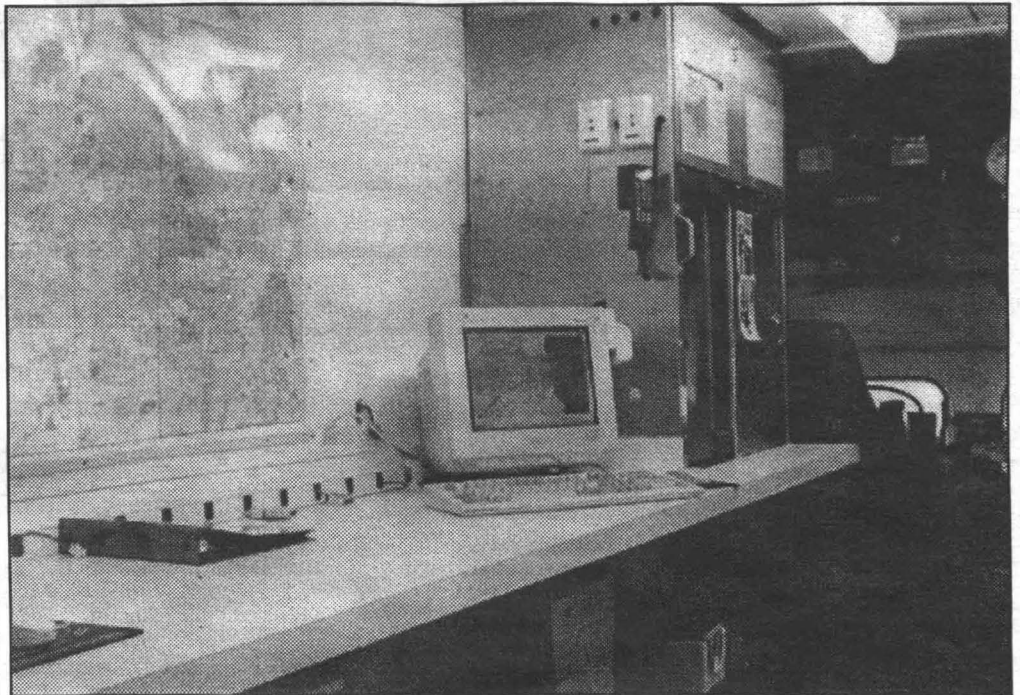
Motions were made and seconded by Ken (K9HAG) and Paul (AA9WI) for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41.

Submitted for Approval:
Theresa Hartlaub (KB9KXE) Secretary

MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Fred - W6BSF	Roger - W9NPX
Theresa - KB9KXE	Mary - KB9GOY
John - NZ9Z	Gene - KB9KXF
Ken - K9HAG	Dick - K9QFY
Paul - AA9WI	Oran - N9VIA
Lyle - WB9VTM	Vic - WB9VYO
Len - N9QFO	Denise - N4WGK
Chuck - N9WUN	Red - N9GHE
Jan - N9IQZ	Ken - WD9ERO
Carl - KA9WYK	

A peek inside the Milwaukee communications vehicle



The Milwaukee County AREC, Inc. toward the APRS/GPS operating/working position. The view is looking toward the APRS/GPS operating/working position. This view is looking

Photo by Bob Goldstein, K9KJT

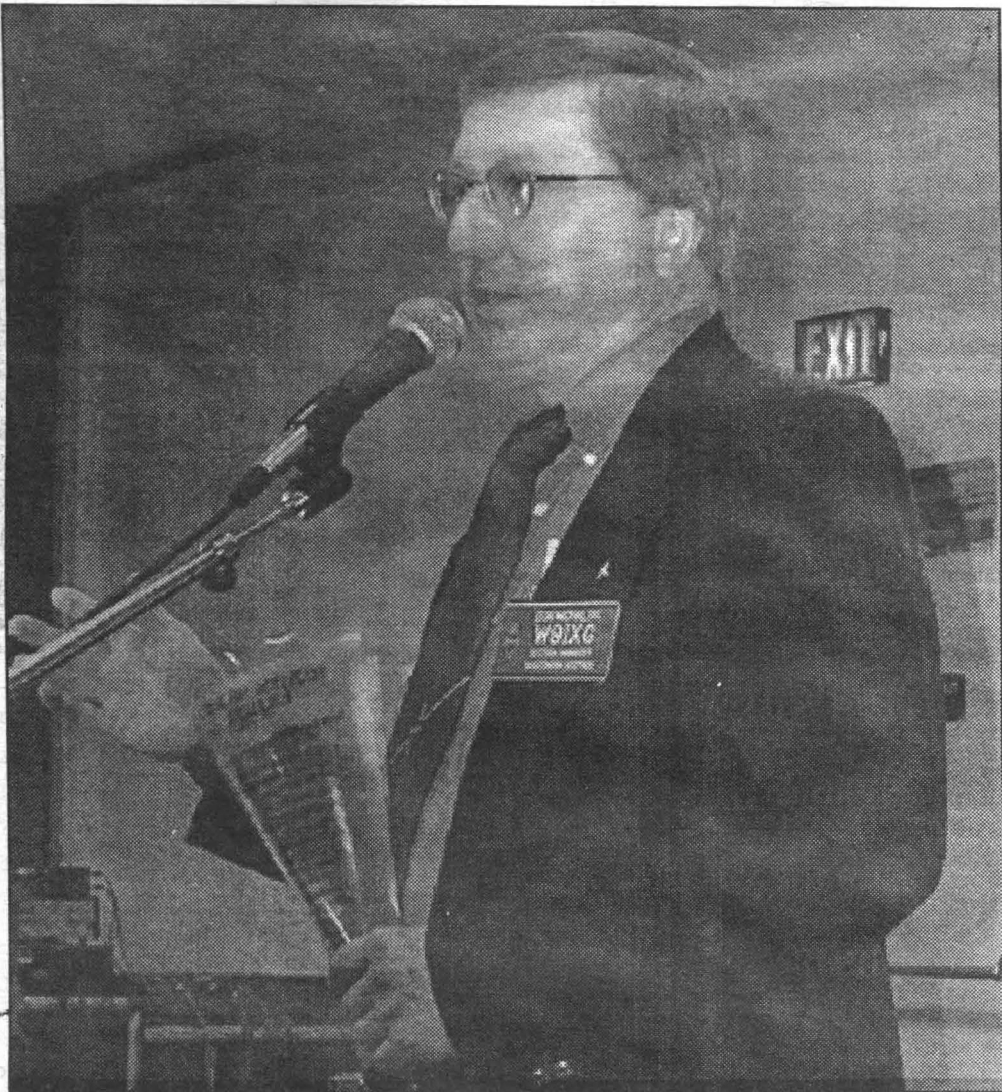
Field Day, a computer, and thee and me: the confusion connection



Which key did THAT? Steve Schwoegler, K9WD, and son ponder what the logging computer just did at the Field Day site of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Owen Park in Columbia County, in 1999.

K9ZZ photo

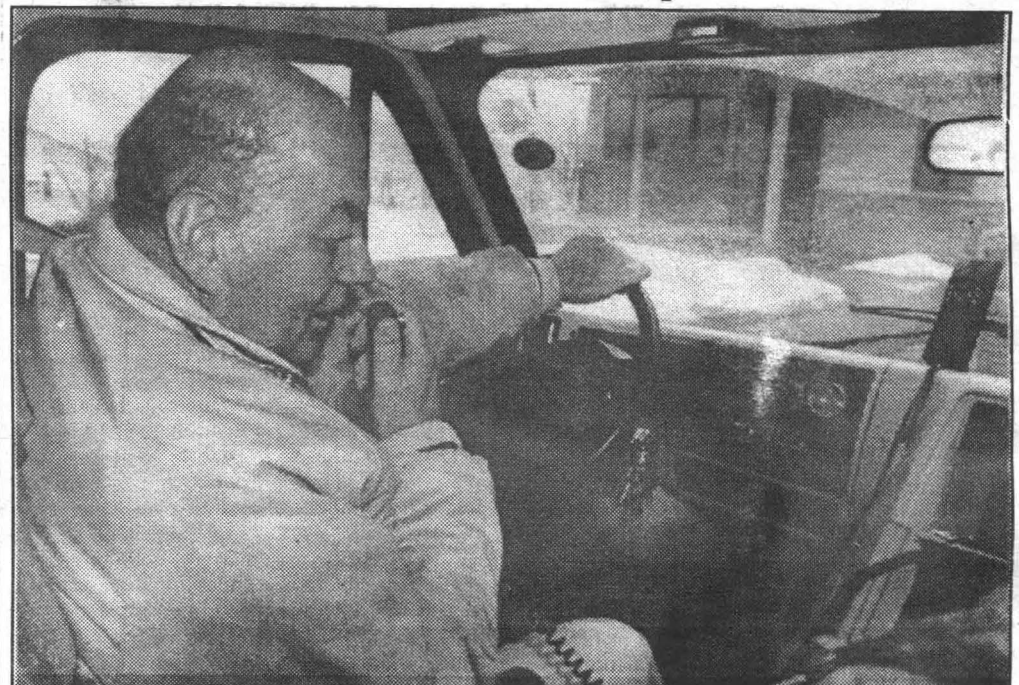
Wisconsin SM bowls 'em over



Wisconsin ARRL Section Manager Don Michalski, W9IXG, shown here addressing one of the ARRL forums at the recent Dayton HamVention, graces the cover of the spring issue of *ABC*, the official publication of two bowling organizations. The cover photo cutline says "Stellar Bowling: Hubble Telescope engineer Don Michalski makes time to lend some star power on League night". Don, in his work at U-W Madison, has been involved with two instruments which have flown in space, as well as suborbital experiments. He's quoted: "... I enjoy bowling because I can share it with my friends in a friendly, semi-competitive arena. It allows you to forget, for a few hours, the daily trials and tribulations. They complement each other well."

Photo courtesy Rick Lindquist, N1RL

Once upon a Wisconsin QSO Party



We have absolutely no idea when this picture was taken. We do know it was taken during a mobile outing in the Wisconsin QSO Party a few years ago. Nels Harvey, WA9JOB ("Jolly Old Bootlegger") is listed on the back of the picture as "Chief navigator, 2M FM operator, and pothole scout". The results of the 2000 party can be found now at: <http://www.WARAC.org>



THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association
Allen Schnepf, N9GMJ, Treasurer
Ogema, WI 54459

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor • 453 Cottage Grove Avenue • Green Bay, WI 54304 • e-mail: kb9aln@juno.com

WAPR News - June, 2000

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

Hello and hope you are enjoying June. May was somewhat kind to us, with warmer than normal temperatures mid-month. Things chilled out toward the later part of the month, but we definitely managed to escape winter.

Several severe weather events occupied weather spotters last month. The only parts of the state that did not get affected seemed to be the far northern areas. In the Green Bay warning area, we saw heavy damage from Waushara county eastward to Manitowoc county. This storm sprang up quickly, and moved very quickly. There was not even enough time to activate the Packerland Skywarn system, though we did see activity later in the day. What does this have to do with packet?

Simple, the Green Bay office is now equipped with packet radio, making it easy for county amateur Skywarn spotting teams to make reports to the office in the event a net is not yet in progress. Another use will be to record multiple heavy rainfall events - this allows more time for the voice net to accept higher-priority reports without frequently checking for such traffic.

In the "off" season, we will be accepting snowfall reports. Also coming in the near future is a web page accessible only by amateur radio, a news center to keep Skywarn participants informed, along with forecasts, special weather statements and weather summaries on the BBS section.

Which goes to show you that packet radio can be a valuable tool in weather, spotting, as well as other emergency communications work we can be called upon to provide. If you're a packet operator that is part of a Skywarn spotting team in the Green Bay Central Warning Area, please read the side-bar that gives you instructions on connecting to the station and the procedure to file a report.

Other weather spotting groups who utilize packet are encouraged to send me a note detailing the path to their station as well as the reporting procedure. I would be happy to devote space here so that packet operators are "up to speed" in this. Packet operators who know how to get somewhere, and know what to do when they get there, use less network time and resources. This can help to make timely reporting easier, and helps to lessen congestion. My various addresses are at the top of this page. Send me the info in a plain-text message (no E-Mail attachments, please) and I will put it in the following month's column.

On to other news. You might recall that Ron, N9CFN is not only a WAPR board member, but is the IP Address coordinator for the state of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Ron tells me that he has a new E-Mail address for those who wish to obtain an IP address, or any information on IP addressing. Mail him at:

4492@juno.com

He can also be reached through the BBS network with this address:

N9CFN@KB9ALN.#GRB.WI.USA.NOAM

He will get back to you as soon as he can (which is most often pretty quickly) with a reply. IP addresses are required in order to operate TCP/IP on amateur radio, they are free for the asking, and you can have more than one. If you're interested in trying out this interesting aspect of packet radio, this is where you start - by obtaining an IP address.

On to yet another subject. Dennis, K9AEG and Joel, N9BQM (our WAPR Chairman) have been giving the old 145.010 VHF packet backbone frequency some thought as of late. They note that in a large portion of the state, this frequency has fallen into disuse. Many packet backbone linkages are now done on UHF at 9600 bps. Denny and Joel

note that there are areas of the state where running UHF for the backbone is not practical, and they wonder whether this frequency could be used successfully at 9600 bps?

Joel has solicited comments on this through both the packet network and by E-Mail. I'm soliciting them, too, and will pass them on to Joel so that WAPR can develop a policy on this.

There are some preliminary policies that go along with this suggestion, however. One is to make it as a "point-to-point" linking frequency, with directional antennas and controlled access. The concern is that if we have many nodes operating in an omni mode, the normally better propagation on VHF will render the frequency useless because nodes will be interfering with one another. Longtime packeteers (such as myself) vividly remember the days when 145.010 was overrun by nodes, BBSs, and personal stations operating at 1200 bps. It was truly a mess and we'd like to make certain that this does not happen again.

We also wish to implement this on a non-interference basis. For example, our neighbors to the north of us in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan operate a link between Iron Mountain and Marquette on 145.010 at 1200 bps. We'd like to not interfere with their operations. The same goes for our neighbors in Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa.

Along with your comments on 145.010 usage, please tell me if you are aware of any operation in your area on that frequency. If you are in a neighboring state and can provide detailed information on usage in your area, please take the time to send me those details. We want to make certain that we do not place a link somewhere that may cause problems for others.

This does get us thinking about a related issue that we'd also like to hear your comments on - future usage and speeds on the VHF frequencies. The general trend in packet is to advance up to 9600 bps. Most 9600 bps operation is currently done on UHF, but there is no reason it can't be done on VHF. Do we want 9600 bps on our VHF user LANs? How do we proceed with an orderly transition that will allow us some backward compatibility if we want our user LANs at a faster speed? 9600 bps stations and 1200 bps

stations do not coexist nicely on the same frequency, so we will have to decide how we will handle this in the future.

You can send your comments to Joel at:

japke@badger.ids.net - or -
N9BQM@N9BQM.EN44WK.WI.USA.NOAM

As always, you can forward your packet news in addition to your comments on these issues to me by one of the addresses at the top of the page. I am most anxious to hear from anyone in the state and surrounding states, so feel free to send me your news.

That's all for news this month. Until next time, 73 from Andy.

AX.25 and Packet Radio - Part 4

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

Part three of our series, we looked at the various types of packets that can be sent in an AX.25 packet connection, what their symbolic abbreviations are, and what they mean. In this part, we will discuss how a packet is actually constructed.

The Parts of a Packet and What They Do

Even though there are different types of packets, they have common components. There is one that comes to mind immediately, namely the call-signs of the TNCs that are linked. This is called the "Address Field", and not only consists of the call signs of the destination and source stations, it also contains the digipeaters that may be used to complete a connection.

Another common ingredient in any type of packet is the "flag". A flag, in computer terms, is intended to capture the attention of another computer (or computer-like device). An AX.25 packet has two flags, one at the beginning of the packet and another at the end of the packet. A flag is produced by sending one binary "0" number, followed by 6 binary "1" numbers, and then another "0".

The first flag does two things - it synchronizes the modems of listening TNCs with the sending TNC. It also

WISCONSIN AMATEUR PACKET RADIO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION			
PLEASE PRINT			
NAME: _____	CALL: _____	HOME PHONE: (____) _____	
ADDRESS: _____	CITY: _____	STATE: _____	ZIP: _____
HOME BBS: _____		FREQ. _____ (Listing your home BBS is important)	
Your HOME BBS should be a full service BBS, not your TNC's mailbox.			
MY PACKET STATION OPERATES: _____		DAY _____ NIGHT _____ 24HRS	
I OPERATE A: _____		DISPATCHER WITH ALIAS OF: _____	
FULL SERVICE BBS			
PRIMARY PACKETINTEREST/EXPERTISE IS: _____			
YES I want to receive Badger State Smoke Signals and I understand that part of my dues goes to pay this subscription. cost \$20.00			
NO I do not wish to receive Badger State Smoke Signals as a part of my WAPR membership. Cost \$15.00			
COMPLETE and return this form with your check or money order - \$15.00 membership only or \$20.00 membership and Badger State Smoke Signals. made payable to W.A.P.R. to:			
Allen Schnepf, N9GMJ, Treasurer			
W5000 RR 88			
PO Box 559			
Ogema, WI 54459			

indicates the start of a packet. There will often be several flags sent at the beginning of a packet as part of the "TXDelay" time. The flag that appears at the end of the packet indicates that the packet is finished, and another may or may not follow.

A third common element in any type of packet is the Frame Check Sequence, the FCS. This is the "checksum" of the packet. The packet is assembled by the sending TNC, and it calculates a checksum based upon the information contained in the packet. The receiving TNC will, of course, disassemble the packet, perform a math calculation on it, and compare the checksum to the calculation it has made. If the two don't match, the packet is thrown away and the sender knows that it has to try again.

Two Basic Packet Structures

There are two basic packet types, called Unnumbered and Numbered

The Unnumbered, or U packet, is used to initiate a connection or sever it. When a TNC requests a connection to another TNC, it starts with an unnumbered packet called an SABM packet (refer to part 2 of this series for an explanation of this). The responding TNC will answer with another unnumbered packet, the Unnumbered Acknowledgement (UA) packet. When disconnecting, the TNC requesting the disconnect sends an unnumbered "DISC" packet. It is acknowledged with - you guessed it - another Unnumbered Acknowledgement packet.

Numbered packets are used to send information and to control the packet link. This is necessary to insure that all packets have been received as sent, and that the two TNCs are linked.

The Information "I" packet is usually numbered and also does what its name implies - it conveys information. In the most modes, they are numbered so that each end of the link can keep track of what has been sent and what has been correctly received. Numbering starts at 0, goes to 7, and rolls over to 0 when the 7th packet has been sent.

The exception to the numbered information packet is the Unnumbered information (UI) packet. This type of packet is used for Beacons and in some cases, TCP/IP. Beacons are not linked to any other station, so there is no need to number them. TCP/IP stations generally keep track of packets through a different mechanism, this is why they are often unnumbered, even though they are information packets.

Assembling a Packet.

Now we get to the "Nitty-Gritty". Let's look at how the Unnumbered non-information packets are constructed first.

As we mentioned before, the Flag starts the packet. Next comes the "Address Field". This has the call-signs of the sender, receiver, and any digipeaters in it.

Following the Address Field is the Control Field. This tells the receiving TNC what the sending TNC is doing. When you send a connect request, the control field is sent as SABM. When the SABM is correctly received, the receiver responds with UA in the control field. Conversely, when the link is to be severed, a DISC is sent, and acknowledged with another UA in the control field of the packet.

Next comes our Frame Check Sequence, otherwise known as the "Checksum". Immediately after this, another Flag is sent, indicating the end of the packet. Here is kind of a graphic representation of the unnumbered packet:

- Flag - Address Field - Control Field - FCS Field - Flag -

Information packets are longer because they have two additional fields in them. The PID field indicates to the receiving TNC and computer what mode of operation that is being used. Plain text, Net/Rom (used by nodes) TCP/IP, APRS, Flexnet and ROSE all are different modes of operation that are supported by the AX.25 protocol. Most people, when they use packet, use the plain text mode, represented by the code F0. Each mode has its own unique identifier code.

The other field that is added to an information packet is the information field itself. This is the part of the packet that actually contains the data that is being sent to the other TNC and computer. Each packet can contain a maximum of 256 bytes of data - no more.

An information packet has the Flag sent first, followed by the Address Field (call-signs and digipeaters



Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)

Leonard Wagner, N9XJG, Secretary
E10262 Hootowl Drive • Baraboo, WI 53913



The May 2, 2000 meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order at 8:05 by club president Steve Schultz (N9UDU).

The minutes of the April meeting were accepted as published in the Badger State Smoke Signals and as e-mailed to all members.

FOX HUNT RESULTS

Winner: Tom Harrison (N9PQJ) with a time of 35 min. and a total of 6 miles. Good Job Tom!! Four teams participated in the hunt.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Klinkner has paid the new insurance policy which was substantially less than the old policy. Thanks to Bill for his part in obtaining these savings for the club.

A work day was held Saturday April 29 to install 2 antenna's and feed lines at the Sauk County Court House and more specifically at the EOC. One of the antenna's will be used for a Packet Station, Which is in the works.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Tom Harrison (N9PQJ) and seconded by Jim Paul (N9LKY) that the club buy a power

are included, just as with the unnumbered packet). Next comes the control field, which tells the receiver what type of packet (Supervisory or Information), and what packet number is being sent.

Now we get to the Protocol Identifier field. This tells the receiver what

=format is used in the packet, whether it is Text, Net/Rom, TCP/IP, or whatever.

The Information field comes next. naturally, this is the whole point of packet radio - to exchange information.

To make sure the information has been decoded properly, the Frame Check Sequence is sent, the checksum. Finally, our packet is ended with another flag. Here is yet another semi-graphic representation of how an information packet is constructed:

- Flag - Address - Control - Protocol ID - Information - FCS - Flag -

Summary

This time out, we learned that there are 3 basic types of packets. Unnumbered, Supervisory, and Information.

Each type of packet is made of several components called "fields", which convey certain information to the receiving TNC. Data meant to be exchanged between computers - usable data - is sent in Information packets, which are numbered so that they can be tracked in certain modes. Unnumbered information packets are sent as beacons, in some modes of TCP/IP, as well as APRS.

If you'd like more information on the AX.25 protocol, check out the Tuscon Amateur Packet Radio Association's web site, www.tapr.org. They are the official keepers of the AX.25 protocol, and have the latest version of the protocol specification document on that web site.

That's all we have space for this time. Until next time, 73 from Andy.

GREEN BAY NWS OFFICE

To make a connection to the packet station at the NWS office in Green Bay, you first need to get to the Green Bay Node stack. From there, connect to WIGRB.

The call-sign of the station is KB9ALN-3 (kb9aln-3 [44.92.20.41] if you are using TCP/IP). From there, you have a couple of different options. Before you use them, however, I suggest you do a "dry run" and register on the BBS. To register, type "Register" at the command prompt. The rest is pretty self-explanatory.

Most packet operators will use the station to file reports. To file a report, type:

S REPORT

supply and donate it to the EOC radio room. It passed unanimously.

The N9QIP/YTARC repeater went down Saturday 4/29/00 due to a power failure. Len (N9QIP) got it back online Monday 5/01/00. A suggestion was made to change the ID'er to N9QIP/WB9FDZ instead of N9QIP/YTARC. All present were in agreement.

Remember: Field Day is June 24th, and 25th. Also Circus City Swapfest is August 12. Hope to see you there. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m..

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday June 6th, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. room 18, Baraboo Civic Center.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENT

Leonard Wagner	N9XJG	Baraboo
Jim Paul	N9LKY	Baraboo
Steve Schultz	N9UDU	Baraboo
Peter Sweeney	WB9JTB	Reedsburg
Thomas Harrison	N9PQJ	Reedsburg
Ben Harrison	No Call	Reedsburg
Josh Kriesel	K9SVSP	Reedsburg

The BBS will respond with the usual prompt for a Subject. Please enter the nature of the report in as few words as possible. "Rainfall", "Hail", "Wind", "Damage" and in the off-season, "Snowfall" are the most common reports. While we certainly will accept more serious reports of Funnel, Tornadoes and the like, it is faster to do these via voice. Of course, if no voice net is in progress, by all means, use the packet method to make your reports.

After you enter a subject, enter the following information as concisely as possible:

Time that the reported event took place (not the time you are filing it).

Location of the event, including the county.

What the event was. Use inch measurements for hail (no "Marble-Size" reports are valid), note whether wind speeds are estimated or measured.

Any additional details that you would normally report via voice. Again, keep it concise, clear, and easy to understand.

End it by providing a call-sign of a packet station where you can normally be reached, along with the LAN node you used to gain access to the network.

Close your message by sending a Control-Z key combination, or with /EX.

This will put your into memory. Once you disconnect, the message will be directed to the printer for (nearly) immediate printing. If you try and list the message, you will not see it. The message gets processed after you disconnect. So do not "idle" and remain connected to the station for long periods of time. This will only slow the report process.

Forecasts, Hazardous Weather Outlooks, and Weather summaries are also available on the NWSSRB BBS. To read them, follow the connection procedure and when you receive the command prompt, type "A WX". From there, you will be notified if there are any new messages. Use the L command to list the messages and their numbers, use the R (followed by a message number) command to read a message.

We welcome your comments on the station, and expect to add some features to it from time to time. Send your comments and suggestions to me at one of the addresses that appear at the top of the page.

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SWAPFESTS



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Extension: Ask for Verne

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South Milwaukee, WI 53172

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Manitowoc County Expo

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For more information, call:

Red. N9GHE • (920) 84-3733

Dick. N9QFY • (920) 882-9264

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Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club W9EAU HAMFEST Saturday, June 10, 2000

For Information Contact:

Jim Staatz KG9MV at 715-838-9108

P.O. Box 1867 Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867

kg9mv@ecol.net http://www.ecarc.org

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Contact us or keep
checking our web
site for details on
upcoming events.



Ozaukee Radio Club 22ND ANNUAL RADIO AND COMPUTER SWAPFEST Saturday, May 6, 2000

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center

Intersection of Highway 60 and County I

Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno,

5119 W. Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222

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1702 Holly Lane, Grafton, WI 53024

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Steve Schulze, N9UDU
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<http://members.baraboo.com/schulze/hamfest.htm>

Bill Klinkner, N9KXX
(608) 643-6908/643-6453

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.

AUCTION

February 27, 2001 • 7:00 p.m.

American Legion Post 53 • 634 Water Street

Eau Claire, WI

CONTACT:

Steve Hart, KA9OMC
E616 810th Ave.

715-665-2374
Knapp, WI 54749

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